

## CHEESEQUAKE STATE PARK

300 Gordon Road Matawan, NJ 07747 phone (732) 566-2161 fax (732) 566.0249

[CSPsupt@optonline.net](mailto:CSPsupt@optonline.net)

# 2015-16 Deer Management Program

Cheesequake State Park is managed for both recreational opportunities and resource protection; we cannot have one without the other. White-tailed deer in the Park had reached a population density that was consuming a high level of native plants that are vital to the future of the forest, other animals, and many recreational opportunities.

In 2011 we estimated the density of the Park's deer population through Distance Sampling; a method of data collection from random sightings of deer from different point transects within the Park. The number reported was six times higher than what is required for normal forest regeneration. The past four seasons of safe and effective deer hunting have reduced the population level to less than ten deer / square mile. Wildflowers, seedlings of shrubs and trees are starting to grow again. This is the level at which we wish to remain and hunting is necessary to maintain that at this time.

We understand safety concerns and that everyone might not be comfortable recreating in areas where hunting takes place. We do not allow the use of guns in the Park. Bow hunting from an elevated tree stand is the proven safe method that we use. Whitetail deer are an important component of the functioning ecosystems in the Park. We share everyone's respect for deer and our goal is to keep them in the Park, but at lower population levels.

Free permits will be offered through a lottery again this season. There will be a 7-day drop off / send in time frame when permit applications will be accepted. Lottery winners will be notified by phone call. Once the permit winners come into the office and complete the paperwork, they can immediately install their stand. Opening day is Saturday, SEP 12.

## LOTTERY REQUIREMENTS

- drop off / snail mail / e-mail or fax  
the following items between  
Wednesday SEP 2 at 8am and  
Tuesday SEP 8 at 4pm.

- 1) valid NJ Bow Hunting License.
- 2) valid Driver's License or government issued  
Non-Drivers Photo ID card.
- 3) daytime phone number that you will answer  
between 8am – 4pm.

